IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus ~~having a structure in which~~ comprising:

a conveying rotary member;

~~a sheet having an image formed thereon is nipped with a conveying rotary member and biasing rotary members;~~

[[the]] a biasing rotary member,[[s] [[being]] which is in contact with [[the]] said conveying rotary member, [[and]] nips a sheet on which an image is formed, together with said conveying rotary member, and conveys the sheet along said conveying rotary member;

~~the sheet is conveyed along the conveying rotary member to an image reading position opposes to a lowermost point of the conveying rotary member so that the image is read with an image reading means;~~

~~said image reading apparatus comprising pressing means which are arranged in an axial direction of the conveying rotary member for pressing the sheet against the image reading position;~~

an image sensor which reads the image on the sheet conveyed to an image reading position opposed to a lowermost point of said conveying rotary member; and

a pair of pressing plates which are arranged on both sides in an axial direction of said conveying rotary member and presses the sheet against the image reading position

~~wherein a tread of the conveying rotary member and surfaces of said pressing means opposed to the reading means are colored white~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein each of said pressing [[means]] plates ~~each have~~ has a guide surface which guides the sheet.

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein each of said pressing [[means]] plates [[are]] is pressed against the image reading position by ~~biasing means~~ a spring.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said pressing [[means]] plates are formed of an elastic member.

6. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein [[the]] said biasing rotary member[[s]] [[are]] is disposed on each of an upstream side and a downstream side of the image reading position~~, respectively~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein [[the]] said biasing rotary member on the upstream side of the image reading position has a diameter smaller than a diameter of [[the]] said biasing rotary member on the downstream side of the image reading position.

8. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sheet-like original reading mechanism which [[has the]] includes ~~conveying rotary member, the biasing rotary members, the pressing means, the reading means~~, a sheet glass which is disposed in the image reading position and an upper surface of which the sheet passes, and a discharge [[means]] roller which discharges the sheet conveyed by [[the]] said conveying rotary member and [[the]] said biasing rotary member; [[and]]

a book-like original reading mechanism which has a platen glass[[,]] on which a book-like original is mounted, and a platen bringing the book-like original into

close contact with the platen glass, and [[is]] being capable of reading the book-like original as the ~~reading means~~ image sensor moves under the platen glass.

9. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the platen has a discharged sheet stacking ~~section~~ portion, on which a sheet discharged by the discharge [[means]] roller is stacked, on an upper surface thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~sheet stacking means on which a sheet having an image thereon is stacked;~~

~~sheet conveying means which conveys sheets on said sheet stacking means;~~ ~~and~~

an original mounting stand on which a sheet having an image formed thereon is stacked;

a pickup roller which feeds the sheet on the original mounting stand; and

separation means which separates the sheets conveyed by ~~said sheet conveying means~~ the pickup roller one by one.

11. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein said separation means comprises a separation roller and a friction member which nip to separate the sheets one by one.

12. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading apparatus which reads an image formed on a sheet; and

an image forming [[means]] portion which forms the image read by said image reading apparatus on a sheet,

wherein said image reading apparatus is the image reading apparatus according to any one of claims 1 [[to]] and 3-11.